

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 6, 12, 18 and 25 and Figure 7 have been amended. The application includes claims 1-25.

Amendments to the Claims

Original claims 6, 12, 18 and 25 of the application recited that the carbon coating of the thermionic cathode of the invention was of a thickness of from 8 to 10 microns. Claims 6, 12, 18 and 25 are hereby amended to recite that the thickness of the carbon coating is from 2 to 20 μm . Support for this amendment is found in the specification on page 7 at lines 3-4, where it is stated that "Typically, the carbon coating will be of a thickness in the range of from about 2 μm to about 20 μm ...". Applicant thus submits that the amendments to claims 6, 12, 18 and 25 do not constitute that addition of new matter, and respectfully requests entry of the amendments.

Amendments to the Drawings

Applicant further requests an amendment to the drawings as follows: please replace original Figure 7 with the new Figure 7 as shown on the enclosed Replacement Sheet, which includes both original Figure 6 and replacement Figure 7. Original Figure 7 is a photograph of actual experimental data which shows a close-up top view depiction of the tip of an LaB6 crystalline emitter where 11 is the emitter tip and 12 is the carbon coating. Unfortunately, the photographic image is of poor quality. Applicant hereby requests replacement of original Figure 7 with a clear, schematic representation of the same view of the tip of the emitter tip and the carbon coating. Applicant submits that new Figure 7 does not add any new matter, since the same features of the invention are illustrated as in original Figure 7. However, new Figure 7 is much clearer. Applicant respectfully requests replacement of original Figure 7 with new Figure 7.

Formal Matters and Conclusion

The Examiner is respectfully requested to examiner and pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

Please charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment of fees to attorney's deposit account #50-2041.

Respectfully submitted,



Ruth E. Tyler-Cross

Reg. No. 45,922

Whitham, Curtis & Christofferson
11491 Sunset Hills Road; Suite 340
Reston, VA 20190
703-787-9400

Customer Number: 30743